Space Weather Technical Forecast

Issued on Sunday, 23 June 2024 at 01:14 Local

This technical forecast provides a four day assessment of space weather events. The probabilities stated below are for reaching or exceeding the given levels. For more information about space weather impacts please see the Met Office Space Weather Scales https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/learn-about/space-weather/uk-scales

Space Weather Forecast Headline: Further M-class flares (R1-R2 radio blackouts) expected. Chance of isolated X-flares (R3 radio blackouts). Chance of S1/Minor radiation storms.

Analysis of Space Weather Activity over past 24 hours

Solar Activity: Solar activity has been Moderate, with the peak flare M2.8 at 22/0855UTC from AR3716 in the northwest. There are currently seven sunspot regions on the disc. AR3713 is currently the largest and the most magnetically complex region on the disc, with both a beta-gamma configuration and a delta in the leading spot. AR3712 is the second largest on the disc, with limited change in its appearance and orientation of its numerous large spots. This region is becoming more difficult to analyse as it approaches the southwest limb. AR3716 is also approaching the west limb, although no significant change since previous analysis. AR3720 continues to exhibit slight growth and consolidation in the penumbra around the trailing region, perhaps with a tenuous delta spot forming as the penumbra begins to connect. All other regions are simple and stable. There has been a recent filament lift-off in the northwest quadrant, observed at 22/1940 UTC, although this as not yet produced any obvious CME in coronagraph imagery.

No Earth directed CMEs have been observed in coronagraph imagery.

Solar Wind / Geomagnetic Activity: Solar winds, as observed by ACE at L1, indicated declining fast wind influence from CH45/+, with speeds declining to background levels, from 360 to 300km/s. Density was mostly below average throughout. Interplanetary Magnetic Field, Bt, was weak, at/or below 6nT. The north-south component, Bz, varied weakly between +3/-2nT. Phi angle was predominantly positive (away from the Sun). Geomagnetic activity was Quiet (Kp 1-2).

Energetic Particles / Solar Radiation: The high energy (greater than 10 MeV) proton flux observed by GOES18 remained at background levels with no solar radiation storms occurring. High energy electron flux (greater than 2MeV) observed by GOES16 was predominantly moderate, reaching 772 pfu at 22/1545 UTC. The 24-hour fluence was below Active on a slight rising trend, reaching 2.57e7 integrated pfu at 23/0000 UTC.

Four-Day Space Weather Forecast Summary

Solar Activity: Further M-flares are expected, with a chance of isolated X-class flares, most likely from AR3712 and AR3713.

Solar Wind / Geomagnetic Activity: No Earth-directed CMEs currently feature in the forecast period, but with lower confidence than usual early in the period. Background solar winds are expected to persist through much of, if not the entire forecast period. There is a chance of a fast wind enhancement from CH46/- in the northwest disc on day 1 (23 Jun), however, significant connection to this feature is considered unlikely given its high-latitude location on the disc.

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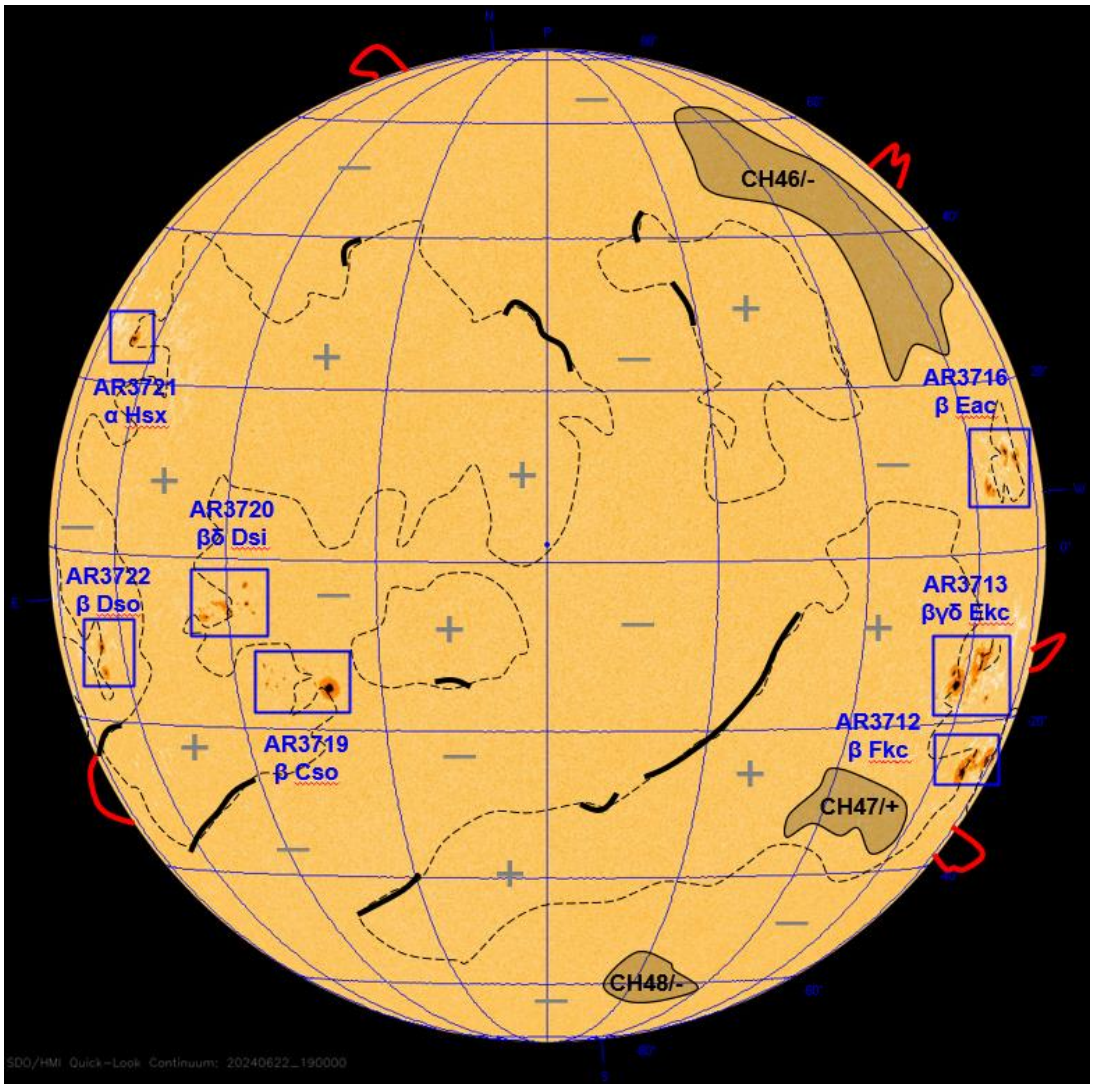
Another minor coronal hole enhancement is possible, but unlikely on days 2 and 3 (24 and 25 Jun).

Overall mainly Quiet to Unsettled geomagnetic activity is expected. There is a chance of isolated Active intervals, mainly on day 1 (23 Jun), should there be any notable connection to the aforementioned large coronal hole, although considered unlikely.

Energetic Particles / Solar Radiation: High energy proton flux is expected to remain at background levels, but with a chance of exceeding the S1/Minor Storm threshold should any notable flares occur, predominantly from any of the three large sunspots in the western hemisphere. High energy electron flux is forecast to be at mainly moderate levels on day 1 (23 Jun), before likely declining to become predominantly background later in the period. The associated 24-hour fluence is expected to remain well below the Active threshold.

Figure 1. Solar Analysis Valid 22/1900 UTC.



Key: Filament ___ , Prominence ___ , Magnetic Field Line - - - , Polarity +/-, Coronal Holes: Grey shaded area CHxx +/-, Sunspot groups 25xx - Mt Wilson α-β-βγ-βγδ and Zurich-McIntosh Axx etc.

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Geomagnetic Storms:
No obviously Earth directed CMEs are evident in imagery, however, given the number of CMEs in recent days there is some slight uncertainty in this aspect of the forecast.

Solar winds are currently at normal background levels and speeds are likely to remain similar through much of, if not the entire forecast period. MOSWOC Enlil continues to indicate that a significant fast wind enhancement should already have occurred from large coronal hole, CH46/-,in the northwest disc. This feature is considered to be over-estimated in both strength and southern extent in Enlil. No significant enhancement was observed from this feature on the previous rotation, however, given the slightly more northward location of Earth above the ecliptic, there is a chance for a minor enhancement to be observed on day 1 (23 Jun). In the unlikely case of any connection to this feature, wind speeds could potentially increase to slightly elevated, or perhaps elevated levels at peak, before easing later in the period. Either way, any geomagnetic response is expected to be limited at this time of year (around the solstice). Another minor coronal hole enhancement is possible from CH47/+ on days 2 and 3 (24 and 25 Jun), but also thought to be unlikely, given its southerly latitude.

Overall mainly Quiet to Unsettled geomagnetic activity is expected. There is a slight chance of isolated Active intervals, mainly on day 1 (23 Jun), should there be any notable connection to the high-speed stream enhancement from the aforementioned CH46/-.

Geo-Magnetic Storm Probability (Exceedance)	Level	Past 24 Hours (Yes/No)	Day 1 (00-24 UTC) (%)	Day 2 (00-24 UTC) (%)	Day 3 (00-24 UTC) (%)	Day 4 (00-24 UTC) (%)
Minor or Moderate	G1 to G2	No	5	1	1	1
Strong	G3	No	1	1	1	1
Severe	G4	No	1	1	1	1
Extreme	G5	No	1	1	1	1

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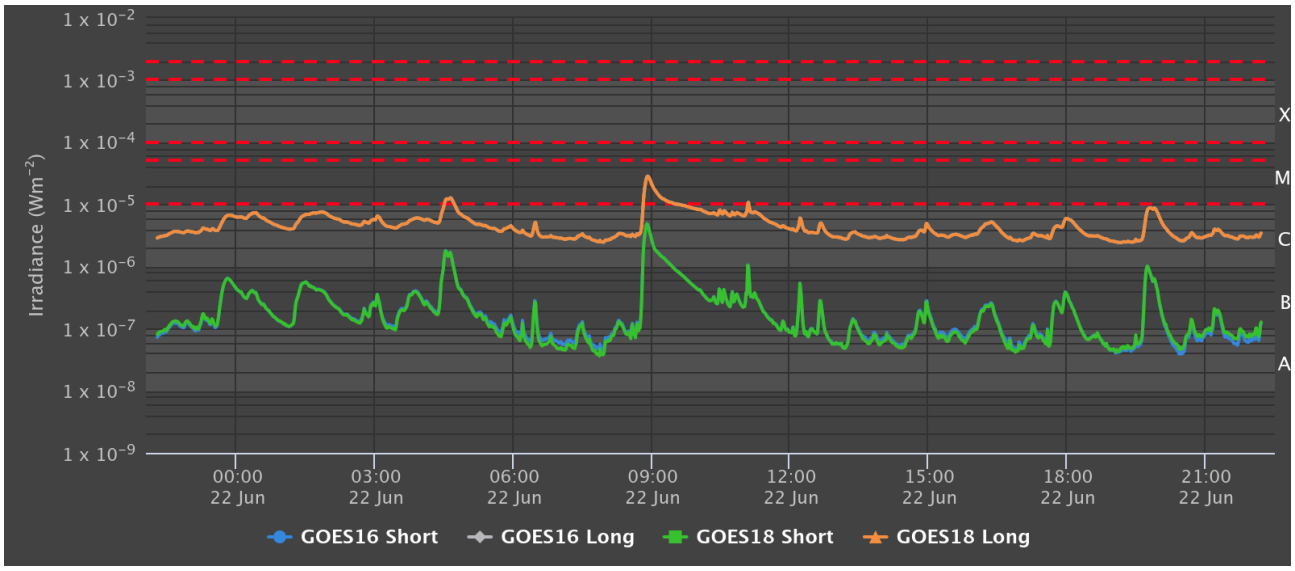
Radio Blackouts - X-Ray Flares:

There are currently seven sunspot regions on the disc. AR3713 is currently the largest and the most magnetically complex region on the disc, with both a beta-gamma configuration and a delta in the leading spot. AR3712 is the second largest on the disc, with limited change in its appearance and orientation of its numerous large spots. This region is becoming more difficult to analyse as it approaches the southwest limb. AR3716 is also approaching the west limb, although no significant change since previous analysis. AR3720 continues to exhibit slight growth and consolidation in the penumbra around the trailing region, perhaps with a tenuous delta spot forming as the penumbra begins to connect. All other regions are simple and stable. AR3712 and AR3716 are due to rotate off the visible disc on day 2 (24 Jun) and AR3713 on day 3 (25 Jun), but will still pose a threat for significant flares just beyond the western horizon.

There are a number of potential returning regions in the period. Far-sided seismic data also indicates a larger region due to return on day 1 (23 Jun) and is likely Ex-AR3664/Ex-AR3697, although may be significantly altered from when it was last on the visible disc earlier in June. Further M-class flares are expected, with a chance of isolated X-class flares, mainly from AR3712, AR3713 or perhaps from a returning region around the southeast limb.

X Ray Flares	Level	Past 24 Hours (Yes/No)	Day 1 (00-24 UTC)	Day 2 (00-24 UTC)	Day 3 (00-24 UTC)	Day 4 (00-24 UTC)
Probability			(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Active	R1-R2 M Class	No	80	80	80	80
Very Active	R3 to R5 X Class	No	25	25	25	25

Figure 2: GOES18 X-Ray trace.



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Solar Radiation Storms - (High Energy Protons):

GOES-18 proton flux remains at background levels, with no solar radiation storms observed. However, any significant flares, particularly from any of the three larger regions (AR3712, AR3713 or AR3716) in the western disc as they approach and round the western limb, have the potential to increase the observed flux and brings a chance of exceeding the S1 Minor Storm threshold.

Radiation Storms Probability (Exceedance)	Level (cm^{-2} sr^{-1} s^{-1})	Past 24 Hours (Yes/No)	Day 1 (00-24 UTC) (%)	Day 2 (00-24 UTC) (%)	Day 3 (00-24 UTC) (%)	Day 4 (00-24 UTC) (%)
Active	**≥ S1**	No	30	30	30	30
Very Active	**≥ S3 ***	No	5	5	5	5
* S3 ≥ 10 MeV ≥ 1000 pfu and / or ≥ 50 MeV ≥ 10 pfu. (pfu = $cm^{-2}sr^{-1}s^{-1}$)						

High Energy Electrons Event (≥ 2MeV):

High energy electron flux, as observed by GOES-16, reached predominantly moderate levels as a consequence of the relaxation of the Van Allen belts following the fast wind enhancement from CH45/+. Electron flux is likely to continue at mainly moderate levels on day 1 (23 Jun), perhaps briefly reaching high levels at diurnal maxima, before declining later in the period to become mainly background. A more pronounced decline would be expected on day 1 should the potential connection to CH46/- occur.

Despite the recent increase, associated electron fluence is expected to persist well below the Active threshold (1e8 integrated pfu), with MOSWOC REFM output considered to be good guidance.

GEO Electron Environment Probability (Exceedance)	Level (cm^{-2} sr^{-1} day^{-1})	Past 24 Hours (Yes/No)	Day 1 (00-24 UTC) (%)	Day 2 (00-24 UTC) (%)	Day 3 (00-24 UTC) (%)	Day 4 (00-24 UTC) (%)
Active	**≥ 2 MeV ≥ $1x10^8$**	No	1	1	1	1
Very Active	**≥ 2 MeV ≥ $1x10^9$**	No	1	1	1	1

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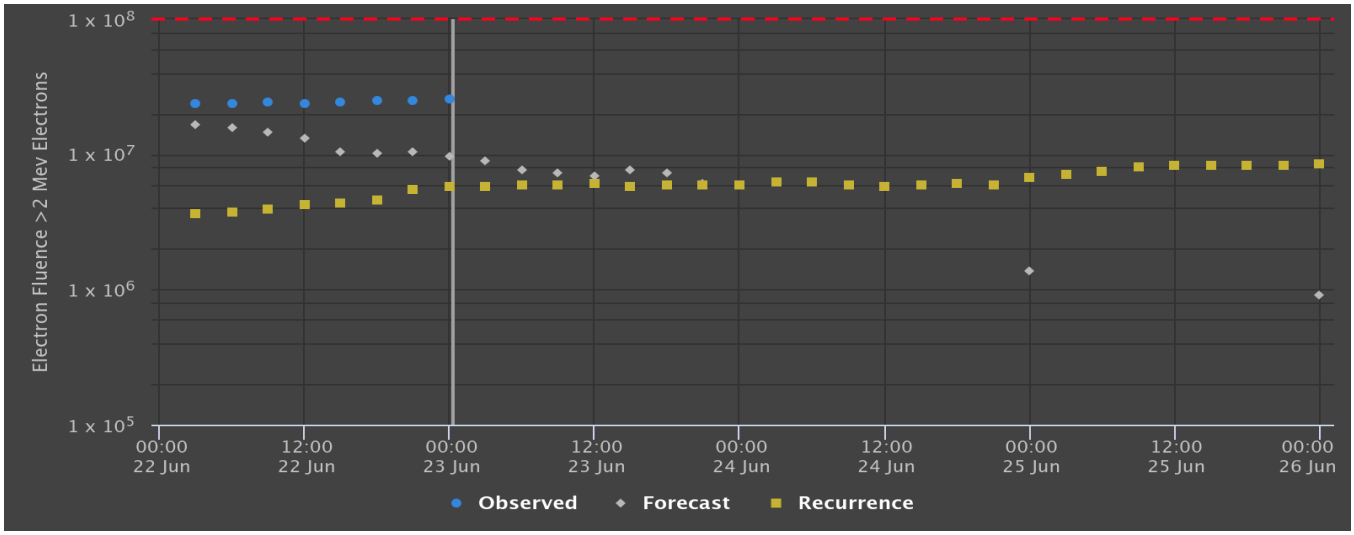
Figure 3: MOSWOC REFM electron fluence.



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